



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

February - March 2011

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-1611

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Once again it is time to schedule our Kindergarten Registration and Parent Orientation meetings. We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year.

If you have a child, or know of a child, who will be five years old on or before January 1, 2012, please contact the school office at 423-1611. We are in the process of gathering all names and addresses in order to send out invitations to the functions necessary to register your child.

Please feel free to call the school office with any question you may have.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Fondly,  
Norma Fisher-Doiron

## Connecticut Mastery Test

We will begin our testing sessions of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) for grades 3 and 4 on March 4th. Test sessions will include testing in the areas of math, reading/language arts and writing. We hope to have all testing sessions completed by March 25th. Make-up dates will be March 22-25.

We ask that you help us by seeing that your child has enough sleep each night, a good breakfast, and that you provide support by realizing this is a somewhat stressful time for children. We will provide some practice tests in order to familiarize the children with the kinds of test questions and procedures used on the CMT.

If you have any questions regarding CMT testing, please feel free to call.



## Welcome Connie Grant, RN

We would like to welcome Connie Grant to our Southeast Staff. Connie will be filling our nursing position for the remainder of this school year.

Connie comes to us with a background in adult and pediatric emergency nursing. She worked at both Windham Hospital and CCMC emergency rooms. Connie is the mother of two young boys, ages 7 years and 8 months.

We are delighted to have Connie with us!

**School calendar revised due to snow days.**  
A revised copy is on the last page of this newsletter.

## Calendar of Events

### March

March 4..... 9:00-12:00 Connecticut Mastery Practice Test

March 7..... 6:00-7:00 Parents' Hour  
7:00-8:00 PTO Meeting



March 8..... 9:00-12:00 Connecticut Mastery Test

March 9..... Ash Wednesday

March 10..... 7:30 Board of Education Meeting at MMS

March 13..... Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 14..... 9:00-12:00 Connecticut Mastery Test

March 15..... 9:00-12:00 Connecticut Mastery Test

March 16..... 9:00-12:00 Connecticut Mastery Test  
12:00 COLT Rhyme Celebration  
3:30 Green Thumbs Club



March 17..... St. Patrick's Day  
9:00-12:00 Connecticut Mastery Test  
12:00 snow date for COLT Rhyme Celebration

March 18..... 9:00-12:00 Connecticut Mastery Test  
PROGRESS REPORTS GO HOME



March 20..... Spring Begins

March 21..... **FULL DAY OF SCHOOL** - Professional Development day rescheduled to end of school year.  
9:00-12:00 Connecticut Mastery Test

March 22-25..... Connecticut Mastery Test- Make up testing

March 24..... 6:30-7:30 Science Fair/Invention Convention

March 25..... 12:00 Star Student Luncheon  
1:30 Kid Power's Operation Lunch Line Assembly

March 28..... 6:00 Literacy Night

### April Preview

April 4..... 7:00 PTO Meeting



April 7..... Passover begins

April 8..... Third Grade field trip to Science Center

April 18 to 22..... **NO SCHOOL** - Spring Vacation



April 29..... PTO School Dance

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793 Please call by 9:00 AM if your child will be absent or tardy

## Patch Whiz Kid, Catherine Grenier

- **Whiz Kid's Name & Age:** Catherine Grenier, Age 8
- **Whiz Kid's School:** Southeast Elementary School
- **Whiz Kid's Accomplishment:** Catherine initiated an all-school Pet Supply Drive to benefit the Mansfield Animal Shelter
- **Whiz Kid's Key to Awesomeness:** When Catherine was in kindergarten, she wanted to do something to help her community. Catherine's mother, Robin, took her to visit the Mansfield Animal Shelter to meet the Animal Control Officer, Noranne Nielson, and some of the animals. She met fuzzy cats, dogs of all sizes, and even a goat! They talked about the shelter's needs- kitty litter, pet food and treats. Catherine's kindergarten teacher, Monique Brown, helped her arrange a visit from Ms. Nielson. Catherine and her classmates learned about animal shelters and animal safety. The kindergarteners got to work right away on posters about the Pet Supply Drive. Catherine helped to design a flyer to go home and made announcements on the loud speaker complete with motivational music. Supplies came pouring in and, a short time later, Catherine and her parents delivered two trunk-loads of supplies to the Shelter. this has become an annual event; Catherine just kicked off her third Pet Supply Drive at Southeast School.



Dear Southeast School Students and Staff,

We want to THANK YOU for the wonderful assortment of stylish hats, gloves, scarves and mittens that you donated to Mansfield children this holiday season.

Every year your generosity amazes us! We feel privileged to be able to share your gifts with our families that might otherwise not be able to enjoy new, warm accessories for the winter season. The children who have received your gifts do feel touched by your act of kindness.

Thank you for thinking of others in need and helping to make this holiday season special for so many children.

In Appreciation,  
Pat Michalak & Kathy McNamara  
Mansfield Youth Service Bureau



## Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

This year's contribution to UNICEF, from the children of Mansfield amounted to \$1,988.07.

UNICEF helps the most disadvantaged children in over 150 countries around the world. To learn more about year round activities and UNICEF's lifesaving work, please visit their website at [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org).



## SCIENCE FAIR , INVENTION CONVENTION



The annual Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention will take place on Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. To get students excited about this event all classes were able to participate in the Science Fair Kick-Off. This included experiments that allowed students to use scientist tools, make Oobleck, and witness a skewer successfully go through an inflated balloon.

All Southeast students are invited to participate in the science fair and invention convention. If you plan to participate please sign up by turning in the purple slip that was handed out during the Science Fair Kick-Off to Mrs. Irvine or by registering at [mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast](http://mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast) and click on the Science Night link. Extra slips are located outside the enrichment room. We, the UCONN interns, encourage students to participate in this exciting event and are willing to meet with any students who need help brainstorming ideas or working on their projects during their recess time on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We are excited to see all of your wonderful ideas!

## Ross Lennon and Tyler Harakaly Participate in "Whales Hockey Fest 2011"



Two Southeast Fourth Graders, Ross Lennon and Tyler Harakaly, along with their hockey team, Northeast Ice Dogs Squirt B, got to spend an exciting morning playing the West Hartford Wolves Squirt team at Rentschler Field on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. It was all part of a two week long outdoor hockey experience known as Whales Hockey Fest 2011. The boys played well and had a great time.

Congratulations to Tyler, Ross and their team on being part of the greatest hockey event in Connecticut history!

## From the Green Thumbs Club

Good news! Nike has resumed accepting old athletic footwear, so you can bring these items to our recycling center.

Reminder: We only recycle rechargeable batteries. Regular batteries can now be put in the trash.

Wanted: The Green Thumbs Club desperately needs plant trays and 4-inch pots for its annual plant sale. These items may be left outside our greenhouse door.



## Notes From the School Kitchen

**Menus:** At the end of each month, a menu for the upcoming month will be sent home. This menu is also available on our web site.

Lunch alternatives are Bag Lunch, Yogurt Bag Lunch, or PBJ. Alternate lunch choices include all five food group components. All juice drinks are 100% juice.

### Meal Prices

Breakfast (includes milk)- \$1.30

Lunch (includes milk)- \$2.10

Milk (only)- 50¢



**Paying for School Lunches:** School lunches are paid in advance and recorded on a debit based system. If your child normally buys school lunch, it is suggested that you pre-pay at least a week in advance. Monthly lunch ticket payment coupons are available on our website.

Should lunch or lunch money be forgotten, it is possible to charge a lunch in the kitchen for that day. Repayment should be made to the kitchen on the following school day. Money for ice cream may not be borrowed.

**Breakfast:** Breakfast is offered each day to students. The menu for the day is included on the lunch menu.

**Free or Reduced Lunch:** If your financial situation changes during the school year and you need assistance with the cost of your child's lunch, please contact the school nurse for details on the Free or Reduced Lunch Program.

For more details about the Mansfield School Lunch Program, see the town-wide Parent Handbook, pages 42-47. The handbook is available on our website. You can also call the Southeast Food Service Manager, Ms. Maureen Gagne at 423-7251 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.



## Chocolate Milk for Lunch -- But Less Sweet

With a little help from students and faculty at Mansfield Middle School, their milk supplier, Guida's Milk & Ice Cream, is this month introducing a new line of flavored milks. The new products- named Healthy Moo™ are, overall, slightly less sweet than the flavored milk served here now. The sugar that is eliminated is high fructose corn syrup and, at the request of consumers, is replaced with sucrose.

The change to the reformulated milk might seem incremental to many who see childhood obesity and diabetes as one of the nation's most serious problems. Some would like to see flavored milk banned. But those in the trenches say putting school lunch rooms on a white-milk-only plan can come at a heavy nutritional price. Kids won't drink what they don't like.

This article condensed from Mansfield-Storrs, CT Patch.

For the complete article regarding the new milk choice, log onto <http://mansfield.patch.com/articles/chocolate-milk-for-lunch-at-mansfield-middle-school-but-less-sweet>



## PTO Corner:

### PTO Officers 2010-2011

President.....Julie Brown  
Vice-president .....Andrea Lennon  
Secretary.....Mike Kelly  
Treasurer .....Kimberly Clark



### PTO Officers Needed!

We're looking for three people to replace the outgoing president, vice-president, and treasurer. The PTO is very active in supporting Southeast School and the community, so we need your involvement to keep our efforts going.

For more information please email Julie Brown at [julie.medill@yahoo.com](mailto:julie.medill@yahoo.com) or call (860) 429-0801 .

### Healthy Snacks



Healthy Snacks will be starting in March. Kids will have the option to try fruits and vegetables three days a week for the entire month of March. The PTO sponsors this event to promote nutrition and encourage children to try new and interesting foods.



### Family Game Night

Family Game Night was a fun event for all. Families had a chance to chase away the winter blues in the school gym with Twister, Jenga, Trivial Pursuit, Candyland, and Yahtzee. We hope to make this an annual event.

### Southeast Family Skate

#### Rescheduled to Sat., March 5th



The Southeast PTO invites you and your family members to join us at the UCONN Ice Rink for the Southeast Family Skate 2011. It is now set up for Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:45 - 4:45pm. Skate rentals are available. We hope to see you there!



### Munson's Chocolates, Butterbraids, and Cookie Dough



Fundraiser orders are due Tuesday, March 15. Contact Michele Boskovic at 860-450-0271 if you have any questions. Orders will be delivered before Easter on April 12.

### Parents' Hour- March 7th, 6 - 7 PM

At the next Parents' Hour, Elyssa Millspaugh will talk about Mansfield Patch, an interactive website that brings you all of the news from Mansfield.

### PTO Meeting- March 7th, 7 - 8 PM

The next PTO meeting is Monday, March 7 from 7 to 8 p.m. Free childcare is provided. Please contact office if you will be needing childcare.